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SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 1.21.09

BILL NO. SB179

January 21st, 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Tax Committee

FROM: Carl Peil, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: SB 179, Adjust tax credit for inflation for elderly homeowners and renters

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Carl Peil and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana – a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana strongly believes in adjusting the tax credit for older home owners and renters.

Many older Montanans who own their home have seen their 401(k)'s and retirement savings plummet in the past six months. During these hard times, this tax credit is especially needed for older Montanans who are living on ever decreasing fixed incomes. This topic has been addressed in past sessions with no result, and now the elderly homeowners tax credit is worth much less than it was when it was passed.

We strongly support Senate Bill 179 because it provides much needed relief to some of Montana's most vulnerable citizens at a time they need it the most. Thank you.